

IDEA - 0092
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Development Branch, DPD-DD/P

SUBJECT :

REFERENCE : IDEA - 0078, 1 December 1960

1. This memorandum is in response to your request for guidance

2. The estimated time required to develop an operational capability in this field, i. e., 12 to 18 months, precludes serious consideration, in our opinion, of the development of such equipment for use in the U-2.

3. Although the Soviet SA-2 missile at present constitutes the most serious threat to U-2 overflights and intercept by manned aircraft is considered only marginal, recent intelligence indicates a rapidly expanding capability on the part of the Soviets to operate fighters at co-altitude with the U-2. By early 1962 the latest Soviet fighter (the SU-3) will probably be operationally deployed in large numbers throughout the Soviet Union and will probably constitute at least as great a threat as the SA-2 missile today. This capability combined with more sophisticated radar (already noted) and improved ground environment will almost certainly rule out any serious proposal to undertake U-2 overflights of the USSR in this period.

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4. Unquestionably, the development of a [REDACTED] in any follow-on vehicle is of primary importance. However, it is the understanding of this Branch that such equipment, more versatile in nature than that referred to above, is already under study.

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[REDACTED]
Chief, Operations Branch, DPD-DD/P

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Ops/Intel [REDACTED] :imh
Cy 1 & 2 - addressee
Cy 3 - AC/DPD
Cy 4 - C/Ops/DPD
Cy 5 - Ops/Intel/DPD
Cy 6 - RI/DPD